W H S WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS W H S

V3 #5

Records of Meetings of the Washtenaw Historical Society

1945, No. 5

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HISTORY OF SALINE AND THE SALINE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

By Mrs. L. A. Catey

The oldest house in this vicinity was built in 1826 by Leonard Miller near an old salt spring one mile south of Saline. This might well have become the town of Saline. Instead there came into the picture a man named orange Risdon, who lived on Mead Hill. Mr. Risdon surveyed roads, including the "Chicago Turnpike," and he believed that Saline was to become a place of importance. A hotel was built on the first real site in Saline, a brick structure erected by Mr. William Davenport. It is still used today, with alterations, and known as the Saline Tavern. Here Mr. Davenport and family lived until the completion, in 1878, of their beautiful home on East Michigan Avenue. He also built the Citizen's Bank Building in 1863-64, using it first as a general store. Later, part of it was fitted up for a private bank operated by W. H. Davenport & Son; in 1902 reorganized as a State Bank.

On South Ann Arbor Street stood an old tannery. The brick building on the corner, now occupied by Hugh Keveling, was built by Nichols Brothers in 1881, the previous store having burned. The brick building, now the Saline Hatchery, was built in 1869 and has been used as drygoods store, saloon, and bakery. Also on the second floor the Saline Standard was published by D. B. Sherwood.

The 2-story brick school building stood on the corner of West Henry and South Lewis Streets; the new 3-story building was completed in 1870; the present structure in the early 1930's. On North Ann Arbor Street, across from the present school, where Don Burkhart now lives, stood the Gillett dwelling, the upper floor of which was used as a photograph gallery by Mrs. Gillett. Here I remember, as do many others, sitting in the old fringed chair, with a prop behind

my neck, watching Mrs. Gillett move slowly about adjusting shades and backgrounds and finally duck under the big black cloth. Where Gross hardware is now located there was an old frame building used as a saloon, and back of this the old blacksmith shop. Another historic place is the Observer office. This from its earliest history was the home of drugs and medicines, operated by Mason & Son, later by George Brainard, then sold to Dr. Unterkircher. Mr. Mason also ran the postoffice. St. Paul's church occupies the corner where the old foundry was.

Saline was from the first a community dependent upon itself, with its own grist mills, tannery, ashery (for making potash), foundry, wagon shops, and sawmill. There was also a military band considered one of the best in Michigan, consisting of 2 fifers, 2 snare-drummers and a base-drummer, all riding in a highly decorated wagon.

Saline Library Association

The first meeting to organize a library was held on November 30, 1900, with temporary quarters in the Council rooms. The name, "The Library Association of Saline," was adopted, and anyone was constituted a member by giving one or more books at the time of joining, during the first year; and thereafter by paying such fee as determined by representatives. Mrs. Leonard Bassett, whose picture hands in the Library, was the first president. Lectures for financing the Library were started in 1901; the first lecture brought in $40.00, net profit $5.25. Socials and entertainments were held, including "The Temple of Fame," which resulted in $48.00.

The present building was given to the Association by Mrs. W. H. Davenport, May 24, 1907. The Library now receives support from the Council, also State Aid, and some individual contributions. An experienced librarin, Grace Clarke Orwick, is now employed, and the Library is open 10 hours each week. Considering its very small beginnings, we feel that this is good progress.

Saline, Michigan
June 9, 1945

RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. CARL CURTIS, SALINE, MICHIGAN
An Expression of Victorian Architecture
By Howell Taylor

During the 1870's the full swing of Victorianism was well under way in architecture as well as other departments of daily life and thinking. Unfortunately, the Greek Revival had given way to other ideas and the public was turning to the more elaborate designs made possible by greatly improved mechanical methods of production. These often led to results which were experimental in accomplishment rather than good in design fundamentals.

Nothing could take away the dignity and the luxuriance, however, which characterized the finer Victorian homes of the two decades from 1870 to 1890, a heritage built up by the Empire and Greek Revival periods of the preceding 60 years. Designed definitely in the grand manner to house the formal and rather stilted life of the times and to make the greatest use of new modern machines and newly invented plumbing, heating and lighting equipment, these houses became as distinctive an expression of the period as did popular conceptions of religion, wearing apparel, drama and the novel.

Today thousands of these dwellings are found all over America. Some are poorly designed and planned and show a lack of thought about and appreciation for the functional elements which must be present in every successful house. Such houses attempted in a blind sort of way to make as good a showing on the exterior as possible in order to follow the accepted pattern, but gave careless attention to planning, which is as old as the art of building. Nevertheless, many fine houses were constructed, thoroughly well done both in point of construction and workmanship and in functional planning.

Such a house is that of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Curtis of Saline, which was built 70 years ago (1875) by W. H. Davenport, a Saline banker, from designs and plans of William Scott, architect, of Detroit. As an expression of the period there could be no finer example. The very best of materials and workmanship were put into it, as was found when Mr. Curtis completely rehabilitated the structure in 1937.

The plan fitted well the family life of the 1870's and 1880's when plenty of household help was available. According to modern standards living was more dignified and reserved, few gadgets had appeared to beset the house-owner with continual repairs and replacements. Even gas lighting was comparatively new at that time and there was no electric current. There were no inside toilets in communities where all water had to be pumped by hand from wells or cisterns; there were no telephones, automobiles, washing machines, electric refrigerators, streamlined kitchens nor bathrooms. The best houses had tin-covered copper-lined bath-tubs, filled by hand with buckets of water carried from a heating tank attached to the kitchen range. When the hand force pump was introduced, large metal tanks were placed in the attics making it possible to pipe water throughout the house, thus saving the arduous carrying. These were considered most luxurious.

This fine Victorian house was built when living was more leisurely, the gracious amenities of living were given more importance, and the urge for outside pleasures was not so great.

When W. H. Davenport built his house, strangely enough, he had the experience of his son, Beverly, to assist him, for Beverly had built for his bride, Emily Pope, a year or so before, a less elaborate but none the less interesting house of the same architecture and general type. This house still stands just across the street to the rear of the Curtis house. Moreover, the famous centennial exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1876 was the talk of the country, and the Davenports looked forward to seeing whatever was offered there for their new home. They must have found much of interest, evidenced by the fact that many of the larger pieces of furniture now in the Curtis home were on exhibition at the Centennial, purchased by them at that time.

Mr. Beverly Davenport told me that he had constructed the foundation of his house with day labor, but had let a contract for the entire super-structure, completely finished, for $3500,- a startling figure in the light of presentday costs. Mr. Curtis states that "W. H." paid $8,000 for his building.

In the successful rehabilitations which Mr. and Mrs. Curtis have made they are to be congratulated on the care with which the old has been preserved and the new adapted without sacrificing any of the interesting features of the building. The fine woods, principally walnut, have been beautifully refinished, and much of the furniture is that which was originally in the house, so that we can see here today a remarkable example of the best in the Victorian style.

Attention should also be called to four much earlier buildings to be seen in Saline: the old flour mill so well restored by Mr. Ford; the charming little school across the road; the fine old Burkhart farm up the hill on the Manchester road; and Dr. Hall's interesting house on Ann Arbor Street, illustrating the transition between Greek Revival and Victorian. Unfortunately, one of the best of Saline's pioneer structures, the Presbyterian Church built in 1836, is no longer standing.

Saline, Michigan
June 9, 1945

REPORT ON CARD FILE OF WASHTENAW PIONEERS

By Mrs. A. S. Hazzard

The Society has a card file of Washtenaw pioneers, a gift of the late Mr. William T. Groves. In the fall of 1944, the officers of the Society, feeling that further data in the records should be added to these cards, asked for a volunteer to undertake the work. I have made a start.

The file was fairly complete in numbers and carefully constructed. Mr. Groves had evidently put long hours of work on it. The Society owes his memory a vote of thanks. Most of the entries were typed, and not one illegible. The whole is a serviceable skeleton for future research. I have now alphabetized the cards, transferred information from many duplicate cards, and filed them in new boxes furnished by Mr. Groves before he died. The file is now systematic, easy of access, but incomplete.

I have begun to enter new records on the cards, all known data about one person on one card. In time we hope to learn about each person: date and place of birth, year of coming to Washtenaw County, total years of residence here, occupation, relationship to others, date and place of death. The register cards from the Ann Arbor Centennial banquet of 1924, now in our possession, are an excellent source of information about relationships. Were it not for such entries as "Ann So-and-So, mother of Jane Blank" and "John So-and-So, father of the same Mrs. Blank," we could not trace either Ann or Jane, for both had married and changed their names! This is one of the annoying habits women have, as any geneologist can testify.

By means of a code which I have devised, the new data will show the source of information. It is regrettable that the old entries did not give authority. When a fact is quoted from a book, newspaper, or magazine, exact title and date should be given, with name of writer when possible. This is important for research.

My historical work has taken me this year to Cayuga County, New York. It happens that many of the people named in our file emigrated from that region between 1824 and 1845. I made a list of such Cayuga-Washtenaw persons from the file and gave it to the Cayuga Historical Society for further research. The president hopes to send us data on family and eastern background. He also sends friendly greetings to fellow history-seekers in Michigan. I visited the fine Cayuga County Museum, saw its vast files of old newspapers, and was envious until I discovered that they have no catalog. They were interested to hear of our file, and thought the idea worth copying. They are at present inactive because of the war, but do have to their credit their museum and a long list of publications. When they have completed their research on our pioneers from their county, it might be possible to secure a speaker from there. We could learn much from them. This is only one of many such societies with whom we have a bond through our pioneers.

Similarly, another society may some day inquire of us about an early Washtenaw County resident. A Texas county, for instance, may ask about Mr. Dix, for whom Dixboro was named, since Mr. Dix tired of Michigan and went to Texas. Our file in good order, we would flip the cards and reply by return post. Toward this ideal we hope that every member of the Society will contribute. The secretary or president, the historian, Dr. F. Clever Bald, or any member of the History Committee, will gladly receive data at any time. This should be written, and please indicate the source.* We must eventually enter upon the cards also information from published histories of counties and communities, newspapers, minutes of local meetings, biographies, reminiscences of old residents, papers read before this Society,- to name only a few sources. This will be not the work of a month or a year, and for the mechanical burden of typing we need paid or volunteer help, but more and more as it approaches completeness, the Washtenaw Historical Society's Pioneer File will be a usable authority on our county's geneological history.

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*Sample of desirable method of reporting data from published source:

Submitted by: Florence W. Hazzard
Date: May 23, 1945
Source: Ellet, Elizabeth F., Pioneer Women of the West, Phila.: Porter & Coates, 1873. Copy in Michigan Historical Collections. Quotes Mary H. Clark, of Ann Arbor.
Washtenaw pioneers mentioned:
p. 361. Sarah Bryan, wife of John. Geneseo, N.Y., to Ypsilanti, Oct.7, 1823. Alpha Washtenaw born, first white child born in County, Feb.27, 1824. Bryans presented with lot at Ann Arbor, county seat, by Allen & Rumsey (Ellet says Ramsey). Bryans moved from Ypsilanti 1835 or '36. Hardships described.
p. 376. Mary Ann Rumsey, Ann Arbor. Character.
p. 382. Ann Allen. Story of naming of Ann Arbor. Elizabeth Allen, Ann's mother-in-law. Miss Hopy Johnson taught school. Miss Clark, in 1873 Mrs. Kingsley, had piano. Pottawatomie Indians.
p. 387. Judge Dexter.
p. 388. Harriet L. Noble, Ann Arbor. Mrs. Taylor in Dexter, 21 years old in 1824, husband 33.
p. 396. Dixboro. Mr. Dix and family. Miss Frances Trask, cousin of Mr. Dix, had wild spirit. Later opened seminary for young ladies in Texas.
p. 400. Orren and Ann White. Goodrich came 1827.
p. 351. Mrs. Clark, mother of Mrs. Van Cleve, Ann Arbor. Also another Mrs. Clark, Charlotte Geer Clark, mother of Chloe and Mary of Ann Arbor.

Saline, Michigan
June 9, 1945

- - - SUPPLEMENT - - -

Officers and Board
1945-1946

President - Ernest J. Allmendinger, 814 Henry, Ann Arbor
Vice-Presidents:
Ann Arbor - Walter P. Staebler, 1315 Sheehan
Dexter - Mrs. Flora Smith
Manchester - Mrs. B. F. Burtless
Saline - Mrs. Bessie Collins
Ypsilanti - Mrs. L. A. Seamans, 202 N. Normal
Secretary-Treasurer - Geneva Smithe, 4510 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor (phone Ypsi-1763J4)
Custodian - Howell Taylor, 500 Packard
Historian - Dr. F. Clever Bald, 524 Thompson, or Clements Library
Other Board members:
To 1946: Carleton Angell, 1217 Lutz
Mrs. Paul Kempf, 809 Oxford Road
To 1947: Julia Kirchofer, 313½ S. Fifth Avenue
Mrs. Henry Steinbach, Dexter
To 1948: Oscar Eberbach, 2026 Norway Road
Dr. R. Clyde Ford, 609 Pearl, Ypsilanti
Dr. Emil Lorch, 1023 S. Forest
Mrs. P. E. Skinner, 35 S. Huron, Ypsilanti

Membership List
as of July, 1945

Sustaining	first joined
F. E. Benz, Ann Arbor	1944
Michigan State Historical Society, Lansing	1944
Mrs. R. E. Spokes, Ann Arbor	1944

Active	
Allmendinger, Ernest J., Ann Arbor	1943
Allmendinger, Mrs. G. Frank, "	Charter
Andresen, Arvid, "	1945
Andrews, Elsie V., Ypsilanti	1945
Angell, Carleton W., Ann Arbor	Charter
Anning, Mrs. Norman	1945
Arksey, A. E., Dexter	1943
Bach, Ellen Botsford, Ann Arbor	Charter
Bader, Arno L., "	1944
Bald, F. Clever, "	1943
Beebe, Hugh M., "	Charter
Beman, Mrs. W. W., "	Charter
Bolton, Ruth Carole, Ypsilanti	1944
Boyce, Benjamin S., "	1944

Active Members, continued

Branch, Mrs. Ralph M., Ann Arbor (Margaret Gamble). . .	1944
Breed, Gertrude T., "	Charter
Brown, Mrs. E. E., "	1944
Brown, Henry D. (inactive) (Navy)	1937
Burtless, Mrs. B. F., Manchester	1944
Butler, Leslie A., Ypsilanti	1944
Cady, Mary, Ann Arbor.	1944
Cannon, Mrs. B. B., Ann Arbor	1939
Cannon, Peggy, "	1939
Carleton, Grace H., "	1931
Case, E. C., "	Charter
Clark, Mrs. George S., "	1944
Clinton, Anna L., "	1931
Colburn, Harvey C., Ypsilanti	Charter
Coller, Frederick A., Ann Arbor	1944
Collins, Mrs. Bessie, Saline	1945
Comin, John, Ann Arbor	1940
Cooley, Mrs. C. H., Ann Arbor	1940
Cooley, Mary E., "	1940
Copeland, Cornelia A., Dexter	Charter
Cowden, Mrs. R. W., Ann Arbor	1941
Curtis, Martha E., Ypsilanti	1944
Dahlstrom, Herbert S., Ann Arbor.	1945
Dancer, Mrs. Ernest R., Chelsea (d. July 16, 1945)	1944
Dancer, Ruth C., "	1944
Deising, Mrs. Louis C., Ann Arbor	1945
Diehl, Katherine, "	1944
Doll, Louis W., "	1939
Donegan, Marie, "	1944
Eberbach, Oscar A., Ann Arbor.	Charter
Edmonson, James B., "	1930
Elliott, Mrs. Martha Speechly, Ann Arbor	Charter
Everett, Mrs. Edward S., "	1940
Fagerstrom, S. E., Ypsilanti.	1944
Farrell, Marian S., Manchester	1944
Field, Anna W., Ypsilanti	1941
Finlayson, John D., Ann Arbor	1944
Finlayson, Mrs. John D., "	1944
Fisher, Anna E., "	1939
Ford, R. Clyde, Ypsilanti	1942
Freeman, Mrs. Jessie, Manchester	1944
Gardner, Octave D., Ann Arbor.	1944
Gibbons, Sophie E., "	1943
Gillette, Fredericka B., Ann Arbor	1932
Glenn, Mrs. Bernard H. (Nelly Lansing), Fowlerville	1936
Goodell, Mrs. Willis D., Ann Arbor	1944
Goodrich, Calvin, Hendersonville, North Carolina	1930
Graves, Mrs. H. B., Ann Arbor	1940

Active Members, continued

Green, Mrs. Camilla B., Ann Arbor. 1935
Green Ethel M., " 1935

Hall, Mrs. L. P., Ann Arbor. 1935
Harrington, Margaret, " 1944
Hartmann, Mrs. Reuben, " 1944
Hauck, Mrs. Amelia, Manchester 1944
Hazzard, Mrs. A. S., Ann Arbor 1944
Henby, Mrs. Ethelberta Wilder, Ann Arbor 1936
Hoey, Leo G., Dexter 1944
Hoffstetter, Emma B., Ann Arbor Charter
Holmes, Mrs. Roy H., " 1944
Hubbell, Paul E., Ypsilanti 1945
Hutchins, Jessie M., Ann Arbor 1938
Hymans, Ella M., " 1939

Inglis, Agnes, Ann Arbor. 1944
Isbell, Egbert R., Ypsilanti 1939

James, Mrs. David W., Ann Arbor. 1944
Johnson, Pansy E. Jane, " Charter
Josenhans, Alma, " 1944
Josenhans, Milda, " 1944

Kapp, Edith M., Manchester. 1944
Kelly, M. T., Dexter 1936
Kempf, Louise R., Ann Arbor 1945
Kempf, Paul, " 1945
Kempf, Mrs. Paul (Edith Staebler), Ann Arbor 1932
Kempf, Reuben, Ann Arbor 1945
Kempf, Mrs. Reuben, " Charter
King, Dorothy, " 1944
Kingen, Margaret J., " 1944
Kirchofer, Julia, " Charter
Konold, Mrs. Nathan, " 1943
Kulenkamp, Mrs. Will, Manchester 1944

Lamming, Mrs. C. Wm., Manchester. 1944
Langley, Mrs. Robert, Ypsilanti 1942
Larned, Mrs. M. D., Ann Arbor 1937
Laubengayer, Mrs. Walter, " 1941
Lawrence, Mrs. David S., Ypsilanti 1944
Lee, Mrs. Lowell V., " 1944
Leeson, Mr. and Mrs. F. G., Manchester 1945
Lewis, Mrs. J. N., Saline 1945
Lewis, Mary Ellen, Ann Arbor 1942
Lockwood, Mrs. George D., Ypsilanti 1944
Long, Dwight C., Ann Arbor 1944
Long, Mrs. Dwight C., " 1944
Lorch, Emil, " 1940
Lowery, Mrs. F. L. (Maver Blosser), Manchester 1944

Active Members, continued

MacKenzie, Mrs. R. G., Ann Arbor. 1942
Magoon, Mrs. Marion, Ypsilanti 1944
Mast, Mrs. Walter, Dexter 1944
McArthur, Olla M., Ann Arbor 1944
McBride, Mrs. Frederika Josenhans, Saline 1944
McOmber, Fred T., Ann Arbor 1940
McPhee, Ralph M., " 1944
Meier, Joy M., " 1944
Morrison, Roger L., " 1942
Munson, John M., Ypsilanti 1944

Ohlinger, B. Frank, Ann Arbor. 1930
Ohlinger, Mrs. B. Frank, " 1944
Okkelberg, Peter, " Charter
Older, Mrs. T. Fred, Ypsilanti (Leah Lambie) 1944
Oliphant, Mrs. Lizzie W., Ann Arbor Charter
Osborne, Jay M., " Charter

Palmer, Jane, Manchester. 1944
Pattengill, Caroline, Ann Arbor 1937
Pattison, Josephine A., " Charter
Pence, Mrs. R. A., " 1945
Poe, Edna M., " 1944

Quirk, Daniel L., Ypsilanti. 1943

Raikes, Mrs. Grace S., Ann Arbor. 1943
Raiser, Mrs. G. A. (Amelia Staebler), Ann Arbor Charter
Reichert, R. E., Ann Arbor 1940
Reinhardt, Mrs. Flora Boston, Ann Arbor 1936
Rentschler, Mrs. J. Fred, " Charter
Rice, Warner G., " 1944
Rominger, Marie, " 1935
Ruthven, Alexander Grant, " Charter
Ryan, Mrs. Mack, " 1931

Sallade, George Wahr, Ann Arbor. 1944
Samson, Paul B., Ypsilanti 1944
Samson, Mrs. Paul B., " 1944
Schaeberle, Florence, Dexter 1940
Schaeberle, Mary L., " 1940
Schnebelt, Joseph, Sr.," 1944
Seamans, Mrs. Luman A., Ypsilanti 1941
Sink, Charles A., Ann Arbor 1944
Skarshaug, Mrs. Emory C. (Pauline G. Waite),Ann Arbor 1935
Skinner, Mrs. Pliny E., Ypsilanti 1940
Slosson, Preston W., Ann Arbor 1940
Smith, Mrs. Flora E., Dexter 1936
Smith, Mrs. Harry L., Ypsilanti 1943
Smithe, Geneva, Ann Arbor Charter
Snyder, Florence, " 1944
Speechly, Cary B., " Charter
Speechly, Susan A.," Charter

Active Members, continued

Sperry, Mrs. C. E. (Mabel Boston), Ann Arbor. 1936
Stace, Arthur W., Ann Arbor 1945
Staebler, Edward W., " 1945
Staebler, Mrs. Edward W., Ann Arbor 1945
Staebler, J. Fred, " 1937
Staebler, Olive, " Charter
Staebler, Walter, " 1945
Staebler, Mrs. Walter, " 1935
Steere, Elizabeth B., " 1940
Steinbach, Mrs. Henry A., Dexter Charter
Stocking, Charles H., Ann Arbor 1944

Taylor, Howell, Ann Arbor. . . . . .Charter
Teed, Mrs. R. W., " 1939
Thomas, Edith, " 1940
Thompson, Mrs. Joseph H., Ypsilanti 1944
Throop, Palmer A., Ann Arbor 1944
del Toro, Julio, " 1942
Trueblood, Thomas C., " 1944

Van Ameringen, Victor E., Ann Arbor. . . . . .Charter
Vander Velde, Lewis G., " 1935

Wahr, George, Ann Arbor. . . . . .Charter
Wandersee, Albert, " 1944
Warren, Elizabeth, Ypsilanti 1944
Weir, Mrs. R. A., " 1944
White, Louis S., " 1938
Whittemore, Harlow O., Ann Arbor 1944
Wiley, Merlin, " 1944
Wiley, Mrs. Merlin, " 1944
Wines, Mrs. Levi D., " 1941
Wolpert, Mrs. Louise Wurster, Ann Arbor 1941
Wurster, Carl Victor, " Charter
Wurster, Mrs. Carl Victor, " 1941

Colophon

Washtenaw Impressions is published at Ann Arbor, Michigan, by the Washtenaw Historical Society, primarily for the sake of a permanent record of papers read at meetings, which contain much original material not otherwise published. The complete file consists of the following mimeographed numbers:

v.1,no.1, 1943: 6 p., 1 unnumbered map
2, 1943: 9 p., 1 " "
3, 1943: 9 p.
4, 1943: 16 p., 1 map
v.2,no.1, 1944: 8 p.
2, 1944: 7 p., 1 unnumbered map, covers
3, 1944: 8 p.
4, 1944: 10 p.
5, 1944: 14 p.
6, 1944: 10 p.
v.3,no.1, 1945: 11 p.
2, 1945: 7 p.
3, 1945: 8 p.
4, 1945: 17 p.
5, 1945: